Iron County Register

BY ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON, - - MISSOURI.

Driven From Sea to Sea;

Or, JUST A CAMPIN'.

BY C. C. POST.

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CHAPTER XIV.—CONTINUED.

When he reached the hill upon the opposite side he sprang from his seat without more than checking the speed of his horse and ran by his side up the incline, keeping the animal in a trot, but reaching the top with his steed much less exhausted than if he had borne the weight of his rider. Then mounting again he dashed on across the next valley, a race of a mile and a half, with the speed of the wind, again springing to the ground as the steeper portion of the next hill was reached, for he knew that an animal unused to long heats at his best paces will make better time if relieved of the rider's weight for a few moments occasionally in making steep ascents.

And so he reached the little town at the Landing with his animal covered with foam, but still able to keep a sharp run.

The appearance of horse and rider as they passed through the one main street which the town could boast of drew everybody to their doors, and when they saw him spring to the ground in front of the doctor's office, a dozen persons gathered about to learn the cause of his hasty ride.

As they heard him tell the doctor of the accident to Johnny, and beg that he would hasten with all possible speed, and that he would loan him a fresh horse so he might return with him, making certain that he did not miss the way, there were expressions of sympathy and offers of the loan of horses for both, if the doctor's were not fresh. They also offered to carry the sad news to Mrs. Parsons that she might hasten to the side of her injured child.

"Ef you would, men, you'd be doin' me a mighty great favor," he said, in reply to their kindly offers. "Tell her and 'Rastus to hitch the ponies to the spring wagon and come at once. Tell 'em to follow the Gravel Hill road till they come to the limestone bluffs—'Rastus 'll know where I mean—and then turn to the left, an' it the first shanty they come to."

Then mounting the animal which had been led out to him, he dashed away, the doctor keeping by his side, his case of instruments in his saddle-bags hanging upon his saddle.

When the party who had volunteered to notify Mrs. Parsons of the accident reached the cottage it was already getting dark, and a lamp was burning in the dining-room, where supper was spread and the family waited the coming of the absent ones, now momentarily expected.

Hearing the clatter of a horse's feet on the hard road, Mrs. Parsons went to the door just as the rider sprang from his saddle, and throwing the bridle rein over the hitching post, advanced up the gravel walk.

In a few words he told his errand.

"An accident had happened; the horses, taking fright, had thrown Johnny and his father out of the buggy. Mr. Parsons had escaped unhurt, but Johnny's arm was broken and he was lying in a shanty near where the accident occurred, and to which Mr. Parsons had returned with the doctor, while the speaker came to tell Mrs. Parsons, that she might go to her child at once."

Martha Parsons neither screamed nor fainted. She called Erastus and bade him bring the ponies and spring wagon while she hurried to get together linen for bandages, and such other articles as might be most needed.

When Erastus drove up to the gate she called to him to come in and get a couple of feather beds and some covering and put them in the wagon, for she knew that settlers in the mountains were not always supplied with a superabundance of bedding. And, besides, if Johnny was not too badly hurt—and the man who brought the news of the accident had conveyed the impression that a broken arm was the extent of the injury—he could be laid on the bed and brought home in the spring wagon at once.

Driving at night over a hilly road is not the most rapid way of transit, but the ponies were urged forward with as much speed as possible, considering the darkness, and just at midnight were halted at the door of Mr. Jones' shanty.

The inmates had heard them coming and Mr. Parsons was standing at the gate waiting for them.

"I'm mortal glad you're come, mother," he said, as he lifted his wife from the wagon. "Johnny's pretty bad hurt the doctor says, but he's set his arm and the lad's sleepin' a little now.

"The folks here are es kind es kin be, and everything has been done that kin be done to make him comfortable, but the doctor says he can't be moved for several days, an' may be weeks, and I reckon 'Rastus had better go back an' write to one of the girls to come home at once, for I know you won't leave Johnny, an' there ought to be some one to home to see to things."

Mrs. Parsons was unwilling to have the girls leave school in the middle of the term if it could be avoided, and she suggested that they wait a few days.

It might be that Johnny could be moved sooner than the doctor thought. At any rate they had better wait a little and see; especially as Erastus expressed a willingness to get on as well as he could without a cook and housekeeper for a time, if thought best.

And so he returned home, leaving both Mr. and Mrs. Parsons at the shanty with the injured boy.

The next morning Mr. Parsons went to the Landing, riding the horse which he had left at the shanty the day before when he went for the doctor, and leading the borrowed one, which he returned to its owner. Then taking his own, he rode to his own home. Here he remained but a few hours and was again on his way to the shanty among the hills to resume his watch by the bedside of his child.

The doctor came again the next day, and every day for many days and weeks; for Johnny was not moved from the shanty, whose inmates had shown so much hospitality, for three long months; and when at last he was taken home his parents knew that he would never again be the healthy, rollicksome boy he had been, going everywhere about the house and ranch, and carrying sunshine wherever he went, but that he was to be a cripple always; the injury to his back making it impossible that he should ever stand erect or be able to walk again.

When it became evident that weeks, and may be months, would elapse before Johnny could be moved from the Jones shanty, the girls had been written to as their father at first suggested, and had come immediately home and assumed the care of household affairs.

Occasionally one of them took Mrs. Parsons' place at the bedside of the sufferer, while the mother returned to the cottage to see that everything was going right, or for a rest of a night or two.

John Parsons had also remained at the Jones shanty the greater portion of the time; for Johnny was fretful in his sufferings, and no one could lift or turn him so well as his father, whom quite as much as his mother he wanted constantly near him. And so he had remained, trusting everything on the ranch to Erastus, and going home only when it was necessary to obtain provisions, or a change of clothing for himself or wife, or something for Johnny.

No one could possibly have shown more kindness and sympathy than did Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who were thus called upon to act the part of good Samaritans to those whom they had never before seen. They even consented that their own children should leave them for a time—when the fever had set in, and Johnny was at the worst, that their noise might not disturb him, and they had been taken to the Parsons' cottage, where they remained some weeks and were cared for by Erastus and the girls.

When the crippled boy was at last removed to his own home, these kind people beneath whose roof he had been so long, would not consent to make any charge for their trouble or to accept any pay, except such as was forced upon them in the way of presents to Mrs. Jones and the children.

CHAPTER XV.

BUILDING THE DAM.

The events recorded in our last chapter served, for a time, to arouse John Parsons from the unhealthy mental condition into which he was sinking; for so long as the lad's life was in danger every other thought gave way before the one great fear of losing Johnny, his baby, his only boy. But when the more imminent danger was past, the fear of losing their home came again with redoubled force as he realized that his child must always remain a cripple, dependent upon others for every necessity and enjoyment in life.

It was at thought of this, too, that Mrs. Parsons broke down.

Always heretofore she had been the one to preserve a cheerful countenance and to encourage her husband with expressions of hope that the danger to their home might not be so great as he feared, or if so there would come some way out of it.

"The law will compel the company to make good the damages if they occur," she would tell him; "and even if we lose the land we will still have the stock and household goods and a nice little sum of money in the bank, and we are not very old yet and will manage to live comfortable, I am sure; so don't worry, dear, it will all come out right in the end."

But now!

When she got down from the spring wagon, and Johnny was lifted out and carried in and laid upon the cot, from which, unaided, she knew he was never to rise again, an awful feeling of desolation came over her. She was as one bewildered and lost in the woods. The sky, the hills, everything about her, took on the look they have when seen through a piece of smoked or stained glass. The house itself, nay, the very faces of her husband and children, seemed strange and unnatural, and she moved from room to room as if in a dream, and when she spoke she heard her own voice as if it came from afar off, and was the voice of another.

All day she was in this condition; but the second day she aroused herself by an effort of the will and resumed her usual round of duties, except that much of her time was of necessity given to the crippled boy, who lay in a little cot which had been made for him and placed on wheels that he might be moved about the house easily and out into the yard on pleasant days.

Her husband now spent most of his time in the house. The winter rains, which had set in some weeks previously, rendered out-door work impossible for days at a time, and if they had not done so John Parsons had lost all love for work on the ranch. Besides, Johnny claimed his almost undivided attention now.

The little fellow had taken to his father from before the time when he took his first baby steps, and had never been quite so well contented as when in his arms, or perched upon his shoulders, or following him about the place; and now he could not bear to have him out of his sight during his waking moments.

Often, too, in the night he would waken and call in a weak, piping voice, so different from what it had been in health; and his father would arise and sit by his side for hours, moving his poor wasted body this way or that to give him a little more ease, or divert his mind by tales such as children love to hear, until he fell asleep again or forgot his pain.

During the day he wheeled him about the house; or, if it was sunny, carried him out in his arms to the poultry yard, that he might drop corn to his chickens and ducks; or to the pasture lot, that he might put out his hand and pet the colt that had been promised should be his when both were grown, upon which promise he had built a thousand castles in the air, of encounters with grizzly bears and Indians, besides taking premiums for speed at all the fairs in the country.

It seemed that the man had but one thought, one object in life now—that of caring for the crippled boy.

Certain it is that he never laughed, except when once in a great while something provoked the child to laughter; then the man always joined in, but at no other time did any member of the family see a smile upon his face; and he never went from home any more, not even to a neighbor's.

One day word came that there was to be a meeting at the school-house to devise means to save the settlers from the overflow of the mines, and that his neighbors were anxious for him to be present, for by this time the danger was apparent to all. The floods caused by the rains had overflowed the valley to a much greater extent than usual, although the amount of water which had fallen was no more than common at this season of the year.

The washings from the mines had filled the creek bed, and at places had formed dams that checked the water and caused it to overflow fields never before submerged, and to set back upon little valleys which opened into the larger one through which the creek passed. Much damage to vineyards on the lower lands had already been done or must speedily occur, if the water was not drawn off.

The water was thick with the clay of the hills washed down by the mining companies, and in places where the dams had formed, and for long distances on either side, sand and gravel, brought down by the swift, strong current was being deposited upon the tillable lands in large quantities.

Evidently something must be done, and the messenger who brought notice of the meeting urged strongly that Mr. Parsons be present and advise regarding the action to be taken.

"'Tain't no use," he said to his wife when the neighbor was gone. "'Tain't no use, but I'll go ef you want I should. You'd better send Rastus, though, and let me stay home with Johnny."

The man's spirit was sadly broken. He felt that it was useless to contend with the company; that everything was virtually lost already, and had dropped into the habit of leaving everything to his wife and Erastus, doing without questioning whatever they suggested, but appearing unwilling even to advise with them; as if he felt himself unworthy, having failed so utterly, to give advice upon which depended the welfare of others.

"I think you had better go yourself, father," replied Mrs. Parsons to the suggestion of her husband that Erastus should attend the meeting in his stead. "You are the head of the family, and you will have more influence than a younger man. Erastus can go, too, if you and he wish. I think everybody ought to go and see if some means can not be devised to prevent our homes from being destroyed."

The meeting of the settlers was held the following afternoon, and John Parsons went. So did Erastus. So did everybody else in the neighborhood.

Somebody nominated Mr. Parsons for chairman, but he declined, and Mr. Ritchie was elected to preside, and Erastus Hemmingway was made secretary. Then the meeting was declared opened and expression of opinion as to the course to be pursued asked for.

The result was a variety of suggestions and motions. Some favored applying to the courts for an injunction to stop the operations at the mines, but others pointed out that such efforts had been made in similar cases in other parts of the country and had failed, or been delayed until too late to save the property of those applying.

Others proposed petitioning the Legislature for the passage of a bill forbidding hydraulic mining; but as such a law could not be obtained for a year, if at all, this proposition was not favorably received, and finally the meeting adjourned without having decided upon anything, but with the understanding that they were to meet again the next afternoon and consider the matter still further.

When they reassembled the next day the whole question was again gone over, and yet nothing could be agreed upon.

To bring suit in court for damages would be to become involved in endless litigation; since they would be contending against those whose resources were virtually limitless, and whose wealth would enable them to protract the suits indefinitely; so that if in the end the settlers should be successful in obtaining judgment against the companies it would be quite as disastrous as to quietly submit to the outrage.

If they sued at all, they must make every company, the debris from whose mines emptied into the gulch above them, parties to the complaint, and would thus find arrayed against them men worth millions of dollars, organized in the form of a corporation, proverbially soulless, and certainly without mercy, or sense of justice, or honor, to prevent them from taking advantage of every quibble of the law, made, too, in many instances, to delay justice, and administered by officers who owed their election to the men who controlled the corporate capital of the state.

Threats of personal violence were not lacking.

There were those who recalled the fact that more than once in the history of the State, thieves, blacklegs and ballot-box stuffers, even those who assumed to have been elected to high offices, had been hung upon hastily-erected gallows by men whose only authority for doing so was their natural right to protect themselves and families from being robbed and insulted by organized bands of plunderers. A large majority, however, favored only legal means for the protection of their homes, and it was finally agreed to build a dam across the gorge through which the debris from the mines flowed, at a point above the agricultural settlement, and by cutting through the hill, turn the mass of slickings into another gorge, which would cause them to enter the river at a point below, and where no damage would be done to occupied lands.

During the discussions at these meetings John Parsons had said little, and that little only when appealed to for his opinion; but when the building of the dam and the cutting of a new way for the overflowing debris had been decided upon, he called Erastus aside, and after conferring with him a moment, returned and subscribed five hundred dollars toward the work to be done.

The announcement of his subscription was greeted with cheers by the little body of men there assembled.

"It ain't all my own subscription, men," he said, when the cheering had ceased. "I don't know if any of it rightfully is mine. It's part of the money we was a savin' up fer to buy a ranch fer Erastus with, and it honestly belongs to him. He's earned every cent of it and more, too; but you see if the work goes on an' our homes is saved, there's got to be lots of money comin' from somewhere, an' doctors' bills and sich has tuck 'bout everything we made last year, an' bein' as Rastus is willin', we'll plank up the five hundred es soon es the committee that is to have charge of the work is ready to begin."

Others now came forward and subscribed, a few putting down five hundred each, and many others, smaller sums; the understanding being that such as could not pay money should be allowed to work out their subscriptions at the price paid to other workmen. Committees were appointed to solicit assistance from those living further up the valley who might in time be injured if the proposed work was not done, and to have charge of the work, which it was decided should be commenced immediately.

And now John Parsons took fresh hope. It was possible after all that his home might be saved, and with the possibility something of his old cheery manner came back to him.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

—Two waiters in a hotel at Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Cal., robbed their employer of a number of articles and left the place on foot. While one of them was taking a nap the other stole a revolver and thirty-nine dollars from him and went on his way northward.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—The temples in Dahomey are almost entirely built of human skulls.

—Chili pays a bounty of five dollars a head for the scalps of condors, but the birds are so sly that it does not pay to hunt them.

—A rock altar, with steps battered and weatherworn, has recently been discovered near Zorah, the home of Manoah, the father of Samson.

—The pavilion of Henry IV., at St. Germain, has been turned into a restaurant, and people dine in the very room in which Louis XIV. was born.

—The little town of Battenberg, from which the husband of Princess Beatrice and his brothers derive their title, has been part of the Prussian territory nearly nineteen years.

—An invention which will be of great service has just been patented by Mr. Crammond, of Belfast. It shields the wheels of train cars so as to prevent the possibility of injury to any person from falling between them. Though simple, it fulfills the purpose.

—Including women and children whose livelihood depends upon the establishment, there is in the Krupp iron works, at Essen, a working-class population of not fewer than 65,381 persons, of whom nearly 29,000 live in houses owned by the works.

—The Arabs made a pyramid of the skulls of Hicks' unfortunate command, which perished in the Soudan before Gordon went there. Of this expedition 10,000 soldiers, including 2,000 cavalry, perished, and 1,000,000 rounds of Remington ammunition, seven Krupp, six Nordenfelt and twenty-nine mountain guns were captured.

—A patriarchal couple living in the south of France have had twenty-seven children, of whom twenty-five are living, and three are serving in the army in Tonquin. The father and mother, aged respectively seventy-three and sixty-eight, cultivate a farm, aided by six other sons. Of their twenty-seven children, twenty-one were boys.

—Out of 509 members of the House of Lords no less than 440 are landlords in the fullest sense of the term; that is, they derive the whole or greater part of their revenues from land. Fifteen million acres of land, with an annual rent roll of £15,000,000, represents their property and income, while another £750,000 in the shape of pensions, annuities, and salaries also falls annually to the lot of this privileged class.

—Last autumn a bookseller named Meyer, of Ronneberg, tied a waterproof label under the wing of a swallow which had occupied a nest at his house and had become comparatively familiar. On it he wrote a query in German to the effect that he would like to know where the swallow would pass the winter. The bird returned to its former nest bearing an exchange label similarly fastened saying, in German also: "In Florence, at Castellari's house, and I bear many salutations."

—Among the flints of chalk formation is occasionally found one that emits a clear musical sound when struck with another flint. A Frenchman has just succeeded in making a "piano" from these musical stones. The flints are suspended by wires above a sounding board, and are played by two other flints. The stones of the piano number twenty-six, forming two chromatic octaves, and were collected with much patient labor, during a period of more than thirty years. There seems to be no relation between the sizes of the stones and their tones.

POCKET ELEPHANTS.

A Collection of Pigmies—Horses as Large as Foxes, Etc.

"How is that for an elephant?" said an artist, taking a green cloth from a clay model of an elephant about twelve inches in length. "Yes, it is small," he continued, "but that's just the great point in its favor. See this bone," he continued, taking up a small object from a table—"the real bone of the elephant I am making a model of. It was the famous recently discovered pigmy elephant of Europe. Some months ago a party of French geologists, rambling through Italy, came upon great quantities of these bones, and soon identified them as those of a race of elephants that were pocket editions, so to speak. The largest were not as large as our sheep, and in the adult form, or old age, much smaller than any of the baby elephants that have been exhibited in this country. Their young in turn were elephants in miniature, being about as large as a small cat, and could easily have been held upon the open palm. Herds of these pigmies were undoubtedly captured by early man, and if the circus was in existence then, we can imagine a rare entertainment. What a troupe of elephants could have been marshalled in! First would appear the great Mammoth, with its long coat of hair; then the Dinotherium, with its incurved tusks; the gigantic Gangesa, from India, with its head and enormous tusks, extending fourteen feet in front, and finally, last but not least, the pigmies and their young, arousing the enthusiasm of the throng of young cave-dwellers.

"The pigmies, as far as known, represented two distinct species, known to science as Elephas melittensis and E. falconeri, and their remains are found over a wide geographical area, showing that they had an extended range. In the second book of the 'Æneid' Virgil notes a tradition to the effect that Sicily was at one time a part of the mainland, and it is now believed by many that long ago Italy was connected with Africa by a neck of land and that Malta and other places, now islands, were a part of it. Over this ancient bridge the pigmy elephants are supposed to have made their way into Europe, where their tracks can be traced in many localities. In Malta most of the skeletons have been found, while others have been discovered in various parts of Italy, and among other remains in many parts of Europe. These were real pigmies, while the so-called dwarf elephants of to-day are merely elephants whose growth has been retarded in some natural or artificial manner.

"The pigmies, however, were not all elephants, as at this time pigmy horses roamed the slopes and valleys of North America. They were the ancestors of our present horse, and their remains have been found in such quantities that more than twenty different kinds have been recognized. The smallest of these pigmy horses was about as large as a fox, and differed considerably from our present horse. It lived in what has been termed the Eocene time, and is called the Eohippus. Instead of walking on the tip of a single toe or hoof, as does the horse of to-day, it had four well-developed toes and a rudimentary fifth. In a later bed of this same time is found the Orohippus—a pigmy horse with four perfect toes in front and three behind. A great many ages later, in beds of the Miocene time bones of the Mesohippus appear. Then the horse was as large as a sheep—equalling in size the pigmy elephant. Its feet were still divided, as it had three toes and the splint of another in each forefoot, and three toes behind. Following this came other forms, as the Anchitherium; then the Hipparion, as large as a donkey; and finally the Pliohippus, with a single toe on each foot, is found—the direct ancester of our great horse of to-day, in the feet of which, if one carefully examines, are to be found rudimentary splint bones that are the representatives of the toes that were fully developed in the ancient forms. In Yale College a very complete set of these strange horses, from the pigmy form of long ago to the horse of to-day, can be seen, the result of the researches in the far West of Professor Marsh.

"A few months ago a pigmy whale was washed ashore on the New Jersey coast, and was sent to the National Museum. In appearance it resembled the enormous finback, but instead of being sixty or eighty feet in length, and weighing several tons, it measured only nine feet in length, and was accompanied by a baby pigmy that was little over a foot long. The pigmy whales properly belong in the Pacific Ocean, and are often seen on the Californian coast; but this specimen probably strayed around the Horn, and with perhaps a few companions was wandering about the Atlantic, or, as some one suggested, waiting for the canal through the isthmus for a short cut home.

"Among the birds there is a pigmy quail—a delicate little creature, so small that the ancient Chinese used it to warm their hands in cold weather, carrying a bird in each closed palm. Among the quadrupeds the pigmy deer is perhaps the most interesting, and when seen it seems a perfect antelope in miniature. It is the Cephalopterus pygmœus, and is confined to South Africa—a most delicate and fragile little creature, being hardly over twelve inches in ength. The head is long and pointeld, the ears short, and the horns like toy ones, and very delicate and slender, being less than two inches in heigat, highly polished, and jet black.

"Quite as much of a pigmy is the Sultana antelope, found in the hilly regions of Abyssinia. Its height at the shoulder is only fourteen inches; the horns are extremely thin and about four inches long. The young of these midgets of the hoofed tribe are beautiful little creatures, those of the antelope being about eight inches long when born, and with their soft-colored fur, delicate pipe-stem-like limbs, large and expressive eyes, they are, perhaps, the most attractive of any of the minute animals. I have," continued the artist, "nearly all these interesting creatures in my collection, and when placed together they present a striking and interesting appearance, telling a story of the curious modifications to which the various forms of life are subject. I am going to make a model of each one for a private museum, and they are to be placed in contrast with the giants. Thus the pigmy whale will be placed beside the right whale, the small elephant next to the giant-mammoth, and so on in this way the great extremes of life are shown at a glance."—*N. Y. Post.*

A CHINESE RICKSHAW.

The Astonishing Vehicles Driven By Almond-Eyed Coolies.

Trot, trot, trot, along the smooth, sunny, but bamboo-shaded, high road, I have a little leisure now to observe these astonishing rickshaw coolies. They wear the enormous traditional mushroom Chinese hat, suitable in case either of beating rain or fierce sun, under which are tucked their hard-plaited pigtails—for even a coolie would feel himself disgraced were he minus a pigtail. They are bare-footed, bare-legged, bare-armed, and wear just sufficient rags to save themselves from the charge of indelicacy. Their skins are sallow, their Mongolian faces are pinched, their stature is small, their limbs seem attenuated and loosely put together. And yet these demoniacal-looking wretches, to call whom "brethren" is, indeed, a heavy demand on our charity, throw themselves forward into the shafts and drag their carriages with its passengers, who may be ten or may be twenty stone, not at a walk, or a shuffle, or an amble, but at a good round trot of about six miles an hour. They neither flag, pant, nor perspire, but keep up this pace for two or three miles at a stretch. Would not the most renowned European athlete or pedestrian be but a feeble coney in comparison? Moreover, these coolies have to content themselves at the end of their journey with five cents—a cent is a fraction less than a half-penny. They exult if they receive ten cents, and consider the donor an utter fool if he gives them fifteen cents.

The first sensations at being conveyed in a rickshaw are those of mingled amusement and shame. One likens one-self to a drunken masquerader or to an unostentatious buffoon. Then habit begets indifference. Dignitaries of the church, dignitaries of the Government, dignitaries of the law, soldiers, sailors, and even the well-to-do Chinese, all have recourse to them; and the sergeant in his rickshaw salutes the colonel in his rickshaw with precisely the same gravity as though both were on parade. Perhaps the full absurdity can be best realized by considering what would be the effect produced were the Dean of Westminster to be trundled in a wheelbarrow down Piccadilly by a dirty, ragged little London Arab.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

A Great Mistake.

One of the greatest mistakes ever made is to suppose that there is any "best" of anything. The best horse, the best cow, the best beef stock, the best sheep, pig, fowl, or apple tree is a myth which no one can ever lay hand upon. In regard to these circumstances alter cases very considerably. The general purpose animal, of which so much is said and written, does not and never can exist. From all varieties one must choose that which is most suitable for his especial purpose, an dit is in vain that he may search for any one that will answer for all purposes and places. One might as well look for a general purpose vehicle that would cart stone or carry a family to church on Sundays, or a general purpose knife which would serve the butcher and the surgeon alike, or a general purpose saw for the cabinet-maker, the wood butcher, or the lumberman. In these days of divided labor every one must have his specially fitted instruments.—*N. Y. Times.*

—"Irish & English" is the name of a Buffalo firm.—*Buffalo Courier.*

PASTURES.

The Disappearance of the Best Grasses—Necessity of Renovation.

The evils that are experienced in pasture grounds are the gradual disappearance of the best grasses, the growth of mosses and weeds in their stead, and the prevalence of coarse herbage which cattle reject, in situations where there exists a superabundance of moisture. Wherever there are stagnant waters, as upon flat surfaces that abound in springs, or which have a superficial soil upon a tenacious subsoil, the herbage is not only mainly rejected by the stock, but the pasture is unhealthy, particularly to sheep; but it is remarked that if the water is in continued motion, as is generally the case upon the declivities of hills and mountains, ill consequences do not often result. To remedy the evils enumerated, and to improve the value of pasture grounds, one or more of the following expedients may be resorted to, viz., sowing and harrowing in grass seeds, scarifying, draining, manuring, top-dressing with ashes or chemical fertilizers. It is of little use, however, to sow seed without top-dressing. When this is done clover and fine grasses spring up indigenously from seed already in the soil, but not in condition to germinate till the soil is enriched. Grass seed may be sown in September or April, followed by the harrow, and, if practicable, the roller. The harrow partially extirpates the mosses, breaks and pulverizes the surface, and buries the seeds; and the roller presses the earth to the seeds and smooths the surface. The bush harrow is to be preferred. This may be constructed by interweaving some strong, but pliant branches of trees through the open squares of a heavy harrow, which thus forms an efficient brush, and when drawn over the ground performs its duty perfectly during a short distance, but the branches being pressed close and worn by the motion, soon become so flat as not to have the effect of spreading the earth thrown upon the surface by earth worms, ground mice or ants. It is therefore recommended as a better mode to fix the branches upright in a frame, placed in the front part of the carriage of the roller, by which means they can be so placed as to sweep the ground effectually, and when worn can be moved a little lower down, so as to continue the work with regularity. This operation also completely breaks and scatters the manure dropped on the field by the stock, and incorporates it with the surface mould. Scarifying is cutting the sod and loosening the surface; in most cases the smoothing harrow performs the work to the best advantage. It slices the sod without tearing it, and is best used when the ground is in a moderate state of moisture, and the grass short. If the land is poor or moss-bound it may be passed cross-wise also. It is advantageously used to precede the sowing of grass seeds. Draining improves the quality of the herbage, and manuring, liming or ashing increases the quantity. It is noticed that animal dung, when dropped on coarse pastures, produces little or no benefit; but when cabcarous matters have been laid upon the surface, the finer grasses soon take possession of it. Bushing, that is, drawing over the ground tops or heavy branches of trees, tends to extirpate moss, loosens the surface to atmospheric influences, and covers grass seed which may have been sown previous to the operation. Manures are seldom applied to pastures for the reason that not enough is made on the farm for the wants of the tilled land, and the pastures in general being remote from the barn the expense of hauling makes its use more profitable to apply it nearer where it is made. Gypsum and ashes may be applied with undoubted benefit in most cases; but the dressing used for lawns, a mixture of one part of nitrate of soda, one part muriate of potash, and one part of fine ground Charleston phosphate, well mixed together, and the mixture applied broadcast at the rate of 400 pounds to the acre, at an expense not exceeding $8, will turn worthless pastures into good feeding ground. The same application, once renewed, will produce over one ton of hay to the acre; and, if the land is smooth, it can be converted into mowing, as it not only increases the quantity of the grass, but greatly improves the quality of the same. This fact is easily demonstrated by dressing one acre of a large pasture with this mixture, and the cattle will feed on that acre as long as there is any herbage left, to the neglect of all the rest of the field.

It need hardly be added that bushes, thistles and other perennial weeds obstruct the growth of grass, and that they ought to be carefully extirpated; and that surface stones diminish the herbage in proportion to the extent of surface they occupy. These should be consigned to the ditches in the swamp, where they will settle to the bottom, and if enough are used, will form an underground drain, and as they settle to the bottom they raise the surface of the swamp. The weeds that infest pasture grounds are mostly biennials or perennials. If these are cut two or three times a season, at the surface of the ground, they will die. Leaves are as essential to vegetables as lungs are to animal life. Divested of these elaborating organs, the vitality of the vegetable is soon destroyed. Our pasture grounds are generally left to take care of themselves, but there is no doubt that the expense bestowed upon their improvement in some of the modes above suggested would be profitably laid out. Their value depends upon the quantity and quality of the herbage which they yield. The quality is in a great measure determined by the exemption of the soil from stagnant water; the quantity by the richness of the soil, and its exemption from moss, bushes, weeds, stones and other surface obstructions, for if these are eradicated or removed it is presumed that nutritious grasses will occupy their places.—*Cleveland Leader.*

The Aztec Tongue.

The electric light vied with the moon in illuminating the veranda, but notwithstanding their combined efforts Algernon and Augusta found a convenient place where the rays of light could only be perceived indirectly:

"Algy," said she, "this must be a good deal like the delightful evenings of Mexico, when the Aztecs ruled."

"I dare say; but who were the Aztecs, my dear?"

"Don't you know? Why, they were the people that said 'Tattenamquiliztli' when they meant kiss."

"Did they? Well, give us a 'Tattenamquiliztli'!"

For a moment the moon and the electric light were eclipsed.—*Hartford Post.*

GENERAL.

—Perfumers now utilize the scent of the cucumber.

—Miss Carrie Damm, of Cincinnati was married the other day. Her name remarks the Atlanta *Constitution*, is known wherever the English language is spoken.

—Honesty pays. It is not every good thing that has such a sordid reason for practicing it; but it is a great gain to keep sharp people virtuous.—*Philadelphia Record.*

—Goat Island, the Sister Islands, Prospect Park and all the territory adjacent to Niagara Falls on both the American and Canadian sides are now free to the public.

—The cost of the railroad which the English are building from Suakim to Berber, with equipments, will be $35,000 a mile, and probably more. The distance is 250 miles.

—A census of the occupations of Washington citizens show that the principal branches of industry there are holding office and keeping boarding-house.—*Washington Post.*

—Small boy to druggist—"I want to get some brimstone. How do you sell it?" Druggist—"Five cents an ounce." Small boy—"O, I want a pound. How much is that?" Druggist—"Four cents."—*Detroit Free Press.*

—A man at Bath, N. Y., entered an old tannery to scare up rats with a hoe-handle. About two hundred attacked him, and the doctors have given him six weeks to rest in bed. The gang inflicted seventy-nine bites.—*Troy Times.*

—The highest villages in Vermont are Lunenburg, Danville and Randolph. The highest cultivated land is in those towns. It is cultivated in Lunenburg to the height of about three thousand feet. The lowest land is about Lake Champlain.

—A San Francisco correspondent of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* writes that, in his declining years, the late Mark Hopkins built a huge Gothic castle on the very summit of Nob Hill. One day, walking past the house he looked up at it, and, turning to an attendant, growled out: "Who is the fool that is putting good money into that ugly house?" He had forgotten his own place.

—The total number of blast furnaces built in England, Wales and Scotland to June 30, 1885, was 899; total number of furnaces in blast June 30, 1885, 428; decrease in the number of furnaces built since March 31, 1885, 9; decrease in the number of furnaces in blast since March 31, 1885, 0; the furnaces blown out since March 31, 1885, 13; furnaces pulled down since March 31, 1885, 9; furnaces being built at present time, 13; furnaces being rebuilt at present time, 4.

—Julia Wardhowe—We must decline to publish your beautiful poem on the Ewige Weibliche in Goethe for two reasons. The other one is, because in the first stanza you make Goethe ryme with "both," in the second with "teeth," and still again in the third with "thirty." You are improving, Julia, and make a little time on every lap, but you haven't quite got there yet. However, you are young, and your theme is immortal, and—in fact, your poem is too short. You would have kenoed, as it were, on the next row.—*Burdette, in Brooklyn Eagle.*

—Lactic acid is one of the chief agents that give acidity to the gastric juice of the stomach in health. This is the acid of sour milk, and therefore, one of the best summer diet drinks that we can use is buttermilk. It satisfies the cravings for acids by giving to the stomach a natural supply and at the same time furnishing in its cheesy matter a good supply of wholesome nutrition. A man will endure fatigue in hot weather better on buttermilk than on any diet drink he can use.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—When I behold a fashionable table set out in all its magnificence, I fancy I see gouts and dropsies, fevers and lethargies, with other innumerable distempers lying in ambuscade among the dishes. Nature delights in the most plain and simple diet. Every animal but man keeps to one dish. Herbs are the food of this species, fish of that, and flesh of a third. Man falls upon everything that comes in his way; not the smallest fruit or excrescence of the earth, scarce a berry or a mushroom can escape him.—*Addison.*

—A resident of Augusta, Ga., has an oak tree in his yard that is not unlike others of the oak family in appearance, but instead of growing regulation acorns is filled with miniature formations of a singular nature. The usual cup, which covers half the acorn, and by which it is attached to the limb, is present, but instead of being as large as a thimble is about the size of a pea, and instead of containing a single nut or kernel contains four small seeds. Birds flock to the tree in great numbers and feast upon these seeds.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

—T. C. Crawford tells a queer little story as illustrating Ferdinand Ward's rapacity. General Grant, he says, was accustomed to go up to New York to attend a board meeting from Long Branch, and when he did he received the usual director's fee of a ten-dollar gold piece. This he always gave to Mrs. Grant until she had some seventy or eighty of them. Ward heard of this and got hold of them. He had so coaxed the remote savings of every individual member of the family that when the failure came there was not a single member of the family who had $100 at his command.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—I had from the venerable Joseph Gales, editor of the *National Intelligencer*, an interesting description of the first Senate. Some of the Senators had served in the war of the Revolution, and others had aided in framing the constitution, which they regarded as the magna charta of their young republic. Spectators were not admitted, and there was no stenographers to publish reports of what transpired, but the debates produced useful fruit on account of the weight attached to the opinions of the Senators. The States then sent their foremost men to the Senate, and no one purchased, directly or indirectly, a seat in that body.—*Ben Perely Poore.*

—The Apaches have smoke signals by day and fire beacons at night, and systems of telegraphy understood only by themselves. The displacement and overturning of a stone on a trail, or a bent or broken twig, is a note of warning, like a bugle call to disciplined troops. The many crossings dotting the roadsides of Arizona and New Mexico mark the graves of murdered men. "The country seems one vast graveyard," writes Susan B. Wallace, "if we may judge by the frequency of these rude memorials." Trained by their mothers to theft and murder from childhood, they are inured to all extremes of heat and cold, hunger and thirst. They are cunning as the red fox, insatiate as tigers.—*Chicago Times*